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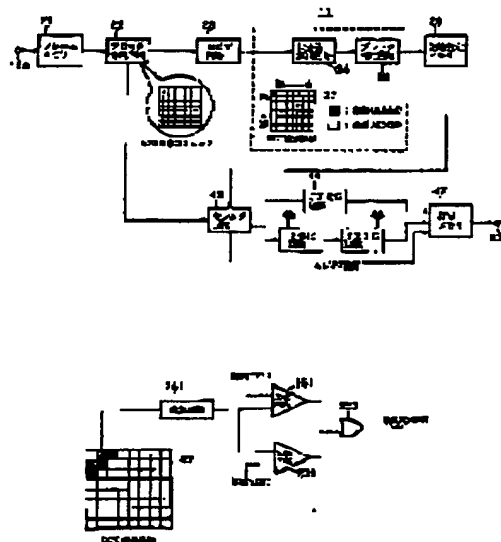
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(54) PICTURE PROCESSOR

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To execute optimum encoding by accurately discriminating a character area from a photograph area out of picture data mixedly including characters and photographs.

CONSTITUTION: An arithmetic circuit 241 in a representative value calculating circuit 24 calculates the absolute sum AS of five transformation coefficients belonging to the low frequency area of AC components in DCT transformation coefficients obtained by DCT transformation. The sum AS is inputted to both comparator circuits 251, 252 and compared with two prescribed thresholds TH1, TH2. When the AS is larger than the TH1 or smaller than the TH2, the block is judged as a character area, and in the other case, the block is judged as a photograph area. A selector circuit 43 selects a JPEG system or a JBIG system in accordance with the judged result to execute encoding.



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